

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 76-82 are currently pending. Claims 1-24 and 42-48 have been cancelled without prejudice or disclaimer; and Claims 76-82 have been added by the present amendment. New Claims 76-82 are supported by the originally filed specification and do not add new matter.¹

In the outstanding Office Action, Claim 24 was objected to as containing an informality; Claims 1-11, 18-21, and 42-45 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, as failing to comply with the written description requirement; Claims 1, 17, 18, 22-24, 42, and 46-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, regarding the meaning of the term “shared” and the outcome of the determination; Claim 45 was rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph, regarding a question of antecedent basis; Claims 1-14, 17-24, and 42-48 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent No. 6,317,786 to Yamane et al. (hereinafter “Yamane”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,793,966 to Amstein et al. (hereinafter “Amstein”); and Claims 15 and 16 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yamane in view of Amstein and U.S. Patent Application Publication No. 2004/0133656 to Butterworth et al. (hereinafter “Butterworth”).

Applicant respectfully submits that the outstanding objection to Claim 24 and the rejections of the claims are rendered moot by the present cancellation of Claims 1-24 and 42-48.

¹ See, e.g., Figs. 1, 2, and 20-24; and the discussion related thereto in the originally filed specification.

Further, the present amendment adds new Claims 76-82 for examination on the merits. No new matter has been added. Applicant respectfully submits these new claims patentably define over Yamane, Amstein, and Butterworth, as further discussed below.

Yamane is directed to managing web servers and, more particularly, to a web service system that allows a system operator to **manage multiple web servers**. In particular, Yamane discusses that a system for serving web pages has a plurality of web servers and provides a system operator with features and tools to coordinate the operation of the multiple web servers. For example, Yamane discusses that the system can manage web traffic, collect data on web page requests and web server responses to those web pages requests to provide reporting of the data as well as automatic and manual analysis tools, monitor for specific events, include crisis management capability, present current information about the system operation, and manage content replication.²

Amstein is directed to a client/server system, using a web server, that allows for the creation and maintenance of an on-line service using a client system which remotely causes the server to perform operations required in the authoring process.³ In particular, Amstein discusses a client system to remotely perform operations on document objects and associated meta-information of a web by communication with a server program.⁴ Amstein discusses that when a server extension program is invoked, it reads the parameters and data content of an HTTP protocol request message that were passed according to the CGI protocol. The Amstein server program parses the message to determine the transaction type (e.g., “GET_DOCUMENT”, “PUT_DOCUMENT”, etc.) and parameters specific to the transaction, and performs the task indicated by the transaction.⁵

² See Yamane, column 3, line 60 to column 4, line 14.

³ See Amstein, column 9, lines 37-41.

⁴ Id. at column 20, lines 43-46.

⁵ Id. at column 23, lines 19-25 and 53-59.

Butterworth is directed to an autonomous agent that interacts with a web service to provide context and context processing of web service traffic. In particular, Butterworth discusses an agent 404 that sits between a web service client 401 and a web service 402.

Butterworth discusses that the agent 404 is an autonomous entity that interacts with the web service 402, without altering the underlying code associated with the web service. The agent 404 provides analyses of the content and context of the messages that are routed to and from the web service 402 and responds to different events, such as the receipt of a message, an event occurring, or a variable changing value or state. Butterworth discusses that the agent responds to each event by executing instructions called actions (e.g., logging data, sending an e-mail message, sending a request to a web service, and updating variables), which instruct the agent to perform a unit of processing.⁶

Yamane, Amstein, and Butterworth, however, are silent as to transferring image data or a document between image forming apparatuses and an image forming apparatus that prints the image data or the document. Thus, no matter how the teachings of Yamane, Amstein, and Butterworth are combined, the combination does not teach or suggest the image forming apparatus of Claim 76 and the image forming systems of Claims 80 and 81, respectively.

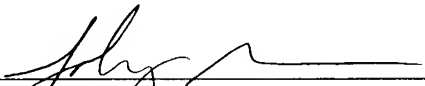
Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that independent Claims 76, 80, and 81 (and all associated dependent claims) patentably define over any proper combination of Yamane, Amstein, and Butterworth.

⁶ See Butterworth, paragraph [0038].

Consequently, in view of the present amendment and in light of the above discussion, the outstanding grounds for rejection are believed to have been overcome. The application as amended herewith is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. An early and favorable action to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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